



## Washington State Legislature

April 11, 2022

Honorable Congressman Dan Newhouse  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: City of Yakima, Eastside Pool

Dear Congressman Newhouse,

We are writing in support of the city of Yakima's request that funding for the Eastside Yakima Community Swimming Pool construction be included in your list of Congressionally Directed Spending requests. The funding for the final phase of the design work was obtained through Washington state's 2022 Supplemental Capital Budget, and the city is now preparing for the construction phase.

Currently, residents living east of North Front Street do not have a public pool they can easily access. East Yakima's Miller Park used to have a swimming pool, but it was removed in 2005 and replaced with a spray park. Now, the closest public pool for those families is several miles away on the west side of the city. Rather than driving far away to an unfamiliar part of Yakima, many residents choose to swim in the nearby Yakima River.

This is not just an issue of convenience—it's a safety issue. For years, many of our local residents have drowned in the river's swift currents.

During last year's heat wave, Yakima residents took to the water to cool off. On the west side, that meant using Franklin Pool or one of the handful of private pool options available to residents who could afford it. But for many on the east side, that meant swimming in the Yakima River. June would prove to be a deadly month. Five people drowned in the county's lakes and rivers during that month alone. Among these tragedies was the death of a three-year-old boy who drowned trying to swim in the Yakima River.

With the construction of the Eastside Yakima Community Swimming Pool, we can create a better swimming option for our Yakima families. Federal funding would jumpstart the construction phase of this project and get the east side of Yakima one step closer to having a safe and accessible pool.

Thank you for your consideration,

Representative Jeremie Dufault  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Curtis King  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Jim Honeyford  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Chris Corry  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Gina Mosbrucker  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Bruce Chandler  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Judy Warnick  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Tom Dent  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Alex Ybarra  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District